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FAX COVER LETTER

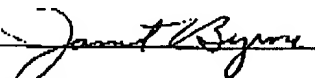
December 15, 2005

TO: Examiner B. Van Doren
COMPANY: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office – Art Unit 3623
PHONE: 571.272.6737
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FROM: David A. Prange
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RE: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/444,889
Attorney Docket No.: 60021-336701

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Fee Transmittal are being facsimile transmitted to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patent, on the date listed below.



Janet Byrne

12-15-2005

Date

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PTO/SB/30 (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0851-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 | Application Number | 09/444,889 |
| | Filing date | November 22, 1999 |
| | First Named Inventor | Michael G. Mikurak |
| | Art Unit | 3623 |
| | Examiner Name | B. Van Doren |
| | Attorney Docket Number | 60021-336701 |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114

- a. ☒ Previously submitted
- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on November 15, 2005.
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____.
- b. ☐ Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment(s)/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____ and Returned Postcard.

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103@ for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____.

3. Fees

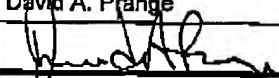
The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901.
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e).
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17).
- iii. ☐ Other _____.
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed.
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | David A. Prange | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 56,872 |
| Signature |  | Date: | December 15, 2005 |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Janet Byrne | Date: | December 15, 2005 |
| Signature |  | | |

